

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

FEA-01 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00

CIEP-02 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04

ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00 INT-05 JUSE-00 NSF-02 OES-05

OMB-01 SAL-01 /149 W

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P R 100830Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5933

INFO COMICEDEFOR PRIORITY

CINCLANT PRIORITY

CNO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK 0460

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0047

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS PFOR MARR IC UK US NATO

SUBJECT: ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: PRO-GOVT PAPER URGES US
DEFENSE ROLE IF "AGGRESSION" CONTINUES

1. INDEPENDENCE PARTY-AFFILIATED AFTERNOON PAPER VISIR, IN
EDITORIAL JANUARY 9, SAID GOI SHOULD DEMAND ACTION BY US-MANNED
ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE IF CURRENT GOI EFFORTS DO NOT SUCCEED IN
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HALTING BRITISH AGGRESSION.

2. PAPER SAID "BRITISH ATTACKS" HAD "NOW REACHED MOST SERIOUS STAGE" IN THREE DECADES OF FISHERIES DISPUTES. UNTIL NOW, IDF HAS NOT BEEN DRAGGED INTO SITUATION, VISIR SAID, BUT IF MATTERS CONTINUE ON PRESENT COURSE, INVOLVEMENT "IS BOUND TO OCCUR." BRITISH HAD BEEN GUILTY OF "UNMISTAKABLE THREAT TO ICELAND'S SOVEREIGNTY" WHEN THEY SENT SHIPS INTO TERRITORIAL WATERS LAST DECEMBER 11, PAPER SAID, AND HAD AGAIN THREATENED ICELANDIC SECURITY YESTERDAY WHEN THEY INTERFERED WITH RESEARCH VESSEL. "AMERICANS MUST, ACCORDING TO DEFENSE AGREEMENT, TAKE MEASURES TO DEFEND ICELAND," EDITORIAL CONTINUED. ON THE BASIS OF THIS AGREEMENT AND SUPPLEMENTARY 1974 AGREEMENT, WHICH CALLS FOR IDF-COAST GUARD COOPERATION, "WE SHOULD DEMAND THAT DEFENSE FORCE TAKE MEASURES TO PROTECT ICELANDIC SHIPS AGAINST UK AGGRESSION INSIDE ICELANDIC TERRITORIAL WATERS AND ICELANDIC VESSELS IN FREE PASSAGE AROUND COUNTRY." PAPER SAID THAT IN WAKE OF UK THREATS, "IDF AND USG CANNOT IGNORE DUTIES UNDER DEFENSE AGREEMENT...IF GOI MEASURES AGREED TO YESTERDAY DO NOT BRING INTENDED RESULTS WE MUST QUICKLY PUT THIS DEMAND BEFORE IDF AND USG. WE CANNOT BELIEVE, IN THE ABSENCE OF PROOF, THAT US WILL FAIL IN ITS DEFENSE OBLIGATIONS."

3. VISIR HAS BEEN CONSISTENT SUPPORTER OF NATO AND DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH US, AND HERETOFORE MODERATE VOICE IN FISHERIES DISPUTE. PAPER HAS CLOSE TIES TO INDEPENDENCE PARTY, ALTHOUGH ITS EDITORIALS DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT IP THINKING AS CLOSELY, FOR EXAMPLE AS DO MORGUNBLADID'S.
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